

I never saw them following a ship like *D. nigripes*, and so have never had an opportunity of admiring their flight at close quarters. Their range seems to extend much further to the north than that of the other species, as I found them in Ukinsk Bay, Kamschatka, in latitude nearly 60° N., and adults were constantly in view on most days during a voyage from Petropavlosk to Hakodate between the 31st of August and the 6th of September. The Diomed Islands in Bering's Straits seem to have been named after this bird. On the other hand, I have observed it nearly as far south as the "Gooney"; thus I saw an adult on the 23rd of May, 1897, when nearing the Japanese coast on my way from Shanghai, and another on the previous day, at a distance of about 4½ hours run from Wolsung, on the voyage to Japan.

On the eastern side of Bering's Sea this species is found in the neighbourhood of the Pribiloff Islands\*, but I did not notice it on the voyage from Unalaska to Port Townsend in the end of October 1896.

---

XXXI.—*On Birds new to Palestine.* By SELAH MERRILL,  
Andover, Mass., U.S.A.†

AMONG the 2,000 birds which I collected while in Palestine, from 1882 to 1886, there are several which, so far as I know, are new to that country, and hence they should be added to the list of those already known. Dr. Tristram's catalogue (in the 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine') is the one followed, and to this the additions are supposed to be made.

(1) Brambling—*Fringilla montifringilla*.

\* Mr. William Palmer's "The Avifauna of the Pribiloff Islands" in 'The Fur Seals and Fur Seal Islands of the North Pacific,' Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899, pp. 381, 382.

† Reprinted from the 'Quarterly Statement' of the Palestine Exploration Fund, January 1890, pp. 41-43. [We have thought it advisable to reprint this article, as it seems to have quite escaped the notice of ornithologists, and is of considerable interest.—EDD.]

(2) Cuckoo, Lineated—*Cuculus leptodetus* \*. An eastern form of a West-African bird.

(3) Curlew, Slender-billed—*Numenius tenuirostris*.

(4) Duck, Golden-eye—*Clangula glaucion*.

(5) Duck, Common Sheldrake—*Tadorna vulpanser*.

(6) Phalarope, Red-necked—*Phalaropus hyperboreus*.

(7) Plover, White-tailed—*Chettusia leucura*.

(8) Pratincole, Nordmann's—*Glareola melanoptera*.

(9) Yellow-ammer—*Emberiza citrinella*.

It may be of interest also if I make a few additions to his list, following the same order, chiefly as to the localities of birds. In two or more instances I was fortunate enough to obtain specimens which he has entered in his list, but which he did not identify himself.

No. 6. Rock Thrush—*Monticola saxatilis*.

*Tristram*.—"It arrives in the beginning of April. South of Lebanon it is only a passing traveller tarrying but a night."

*Addition*.—It is true that it arrives in April, and in some seasons as early as March; but to the last part of his statement I would add that between the 10th and the 30th of September I shot several pairs in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem.

No. 28. White-throated Robin—*Erithacus gutturalis*.

*Tristram*.—"Discovered on Hermon and Lebanon."

*Addition*.—Near Jerusalem in August, 1885, I shot a fine specimen of the female of this species.

No. 30. Eastern Nightingale—*Erithacus philomela*.

*Tristram*.—"Not obtained by me in Palestine. It may be discovered there."

\* [*Cuculus leptodetus* Cab. et Heine (Mus. Hein. iv. p. 34), based on specimens from "Nubia," is placed by Capt. Shelley (Cat. B. xix. p. 244) as a synonym of *C. gularis* Steph.—a well-known South-African species nearly allied to *C. canorus*, which occurs also in West Africa, and (according to the B. M. Catalogue) in East Africa as far north as Lado on the Nile. It might, therefore, visit Palestine in summer, as is the case with other East-African birds, but we know of no other authority for its doing so except Mr. Merrill's statement.—EDD.]

*Addition.*—I have three good specimens, one shot in August near Jerusalem, and the others shot in the Jordan Valley.

No. 68. Hermit Fantail—*Drymæca inquieta*.

*Tristram.*—“It is very scarce wherever found.”

*Addition.*—I should say that it was quite common, for I saw it frequently on different journeys to and from the Jordan Valley. On this road I shot several specimens in November, also one near Jerusalem in September.

No. 90. Palestine Bulbul—*Pycnonotus xanthopygus*.

*Tristram.*—“Never found in the hills or upper country.”

*Addition.*—I shot several at Hebron, which is 400 feet higher than Jerusalem.

No. 94. Red-backed Shrike—*Lanius collurio*.

*Tristram.*—“I have not obtained it south of Esdraelon.”

*Addition.*—I have shot specimens in the hills near Es Salt, also others in the hilly region between Jerusalem and the Plain of Sharon.

No. 109. Palestine Sun Bird—*Cinnyris osea*.

*Tristram.*—“Beyond the gorge of the Jordan I never but once found it, and that was at the south of Mount Carmel.”

*Addition.*—This bird, or a *species* of Sun Bird, is abundant at Jaffa. The markings of those found at Jaffa differ from those found in the Jordan Valley, and I have shot them both in the spring and autumn at both these places. Whether or not these are distinct species I do not now pretend to determine.

No. 111. Serin—*Serinus hortulanus*.

*Tristram.*—“Is only a winter visitor to the wooded districts and the little glens near the sea. It has not been noticed inland.”

*Addition.*—In January and February, 1885, these birds were very abundant about Jerusalem, and at different times during those two months I shot a dozen specimens.

No. 113. Tristram's Serin—*Serinus canonicus*.

*Tristram.*—“Belongs to the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon

exclusively. I cannot trace it on any of the spurs southwards, either from Hermon or Lebanon, and there it is very local."

*Addition.*—On the 7th of March, 1885, I shot a beautiful specimen about half-an-hour distant from Jerusalem, near the Convent of the Cross.

No. 116. Hawfinch—*Coccothraustes vulgaris*.

*Tristram.*—"Only twice detected it, once in Gilead and once near Tabor."

*Addition.*—I have three specimens, one from east of the Jordan, and two from the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

No. 139. Grakle—*Amydrus tristrami* Sclater.

*Tristram.*—"Appears to be confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the Dead Sea."

*Addition.*—This bird ascends the Great Wadies to a higher point than these words seem to imply. In the upper part of the Wady Farah, and in Wady Suweinit, not far from Mukhmas, I have frequently seen it in large numbers.

No. 167. Night Jar—*Caprimulgus tamaricis*.

*Tristram.*—"Only three specimens known."

*Addition.*—I have a beautiful specimen, which I obtained at Jericho in December.

No. 193. Montagu's Harrier—*Circus cineraceus*.

*Tristram.*—"Not often come under my observation. Obtained three specimens by the Lake of Galilee."

*Addition.*—I obtained two specimens near Jaffa in November, 1885, and one in the Jordan Valley in April, 1886.

No. 197. African Buzzard—*Buteo desertorum*.

*Tristram.*—"This may probably be entered among the birds of Palestine, though I have never obtained a specimen."

*Addition.*—I have three good specimens, one of which was obtained near Mar Saba, and the others in the Jordan Valley. One of these was taken in December, and the others in April. As Dr. Tristram says that it has never been found

in Palestine, I am glad to be able to bring it to the attention of the public.

No. 203. Booted Eagle—*Aquila pennata*.

*Tristram*.—"Appears to be confined to the wooded regions of Galilee and Phœnicia, and to the Lebanon."

*Addition*.—I shot a fine specimen near Jerusalem in May 1886.

No. 226. Pygmy Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*.

*Tristram*.—"Found on the Leontes and other streams flowing into the Mediterranean. I did not observe it on the Lake of Galilee."

*Addition*.—I obtained several specimens from the Jordan near Jericho.

No. 236. Little Bittern—*Ardetta minuta*.

*Tristram*.—"Plentiful in the rushes and reeds round Lake Huleh."

*Addition*.—Plentiful also on the Anjeh, near Jaffa, and on the Lower Jordan.

No. 237. Night Heron—*Nycticorax griseus*.

*Tristram*.—"Found in small numbers about Lake Huleh and Gennesaret."

*Addition*.—Also on the Lower Jordan.

No. 251. Ruddy Sheldrake—*Tadorna casarca*.

*Tristram*.—"At the south end of the Dead Sea, and near the Lake of Gennesaret."

*Addition*.—They are just as abundant at the north end of the Dead Sea, and are found all along the Jordan.

No. 257. Garganey—*Anas circia*.

*Tristram*.—"I have not taken the Garganey myself."

*Addition*.—I have four fine specimens from the Jordan, one of them shot in November, one in December, and two in May.

No. 294. Stone-Curlew—*Ædicnemus scolopax*.

*Tristram*.—"Plentiful in the Ghor at the north end of the Dead Sea."

*Addition.*—I saw it frequently in the region about Mar Saba, and in the hills east of the Jordan. I have specimens from both these localities, and others from the vicinity of Beirut, as well as still others from the north end of the Dead Sea. I should say it was pretty evenly distributed over the country.

No. 296. Cream-coloured Courser—*Cursorius gallicus*.

*Tristram.*—“Rare in Palestine proper. I twice obtained it near Acre; I also saw it in the southern wilderness, and on the upland of Eastern Moab.”

*Addition.*—Very abundant between Jerusalem and Beth-lehem on the Plain of Rephaim and south-east towards Mar Saba.

No. 305. Dotterel—*Eudromias morinellus*.

*Tristram.*—“Vast flocks near Beer-Sheba.”

*Addition.*—I found them near Mar Saba in May, 1885.

No. 344. Manx Shearwater—*Puffinus anglorum*.

*Tristram.*—“Obtained a dead specimen near Mount Carmel.”

*Addition.*—I have two fine specimens, obtained at Jaffa in 1884.

I have observed, during my residence of nearly seven years in Palestine, that there were great variations in the migrations of birds. Some years the land was full of them, and the next year, perhaps, there seemed to be very few. For example, I remember that for two years there were but few Ducks anywhere in the southern part of the country; the next year, however, they were very abundant. What Dr. Tristram says of the Dotterel, No. 305, may have been peculiar to that year. The same I know is true of my observation under No. 296, respecting the Cream-coloured Coursers. In other years, while found here and there, they were scarce; the year referred to they were abundant. The Arabs brought to our hotel large numbers of them for our table. Similar remarks would be true of Quails, and of some other birds. Seasons vary in character and circumstances which we cannot explain, and may combine to cause

these variations. As I have had occasion elsewhere to remark, this is a study where there can be no monopoly of knowledge on the part of any single observer. Many observers are necessary, and each may add something valuable to the general fund of information.

XXXII.—*On the Birds of Fernando Po.*

By BOYD ALEXANDER, F.Z.S., Rifle Brigade.

(Plates VI<sup>a</sup>.—IX.)

	Page
Part I. Introductory Remarks.....	330
„ II. List of the Species of which specimens were obtained, with Field-Notes .....	340
„ III. List of the Species recorded by previous Authors, specimens of which were not obtained.....	399
„ IV. Ornithological Bibliography of Fernando Po ..	402

Part I.—INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

HAVING completed in July last my ornithological survey of the Gold Coast and its hinterland, I determined to turn my attention to Fernando Po, the largest island of the Benin group. Although it had been previously explored by Louis Fraser, Naturalist to the Allen and Thomson Expedition to the Niger, in 1841, and by Mr. Newton, the Portuguese collector, in 1894, I had hopes of making further additions to the known fauna of the island. But the mountainous nature of Fernando Po, the lack of all roads in the interior, the form and nature of the Government, the great dearth of labour, and the evil reputation of the island for health constitute formidable difficulties to any scientific expedition.

It was, therefore, not without some misgiving that I left Liverpool in September last, in company with my Portuguese collector, Mr. Lopes, to explore this island; but I trusted to my two years' experience on the West Coast to pull me through. At Sierra Leone I had my first disappointment; I found it quite impossible to get carriers. No better success awaited me at Monrovia and at Cape Coast. At